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## Newsletter

### Number 01

2 February 2018

Website [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

Phone (09) 433 5823 Email – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)



Welcome to the 2018 school year. A special welcome to our new families, to our international students, and to Mr Crump (new teacher in room 13).

#### Newsletters (Keeping Informed)

Newsletters are issued to the eldest child in each family every Friday. Please ensure your child hands the newsletter to you when they arrive home. If your child is absent, newsletters will be held until their next day of attendance. Copies of our newsletter are also available on our website and are emailed on request (If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, and do not currently, please leave a message on the answerphone this weekend).

#### Early Thanks

...to staff who put in extra hours over the holidays to prepare for the new school year.

...Helen Dorahy, Brenda Sinclair and Jim Palmer, for working hard over the holidays preparing school for our return.

...to parents who have already acted to ensure children are well prepared to start the school year. Nearly all children have their full stationery quota.

Those who have already offered to help with the Senior Options Programme. If you think you might be able to help & have a skill or interest to share please contact Mrs Donaldson next week.

#### People of the week

... children for a great start to 2018 ... a great attitude and a really positive buzz around the school.

#### Term calendar ... *More to follow as dates come to hand!*

6 Feb	Waitangi Day Holiday
19 / 20 Feb	Parent Interviews
21 Feb	ESOL Marae Visit
27 Feb	Zone Swimming Sports at Kokopu School
1 / 2 March	Kio Rahi (more to follow)
6 - 9 March	Year 5 and 6 camp
12 March	School Swimming Sports (years 4 to 8)
14 March	Interschool Swimming Sports
15 March	School Swimming Sports (years 1 to 3)
19 March	Junior Marine Trip 1
20 March	School Duathlon - Teams Event
21 March	School Duathlon - Individual Event
26 March	Junior Marine Trip 2
27 March	ESOL Trip (more to follow)
9 April	Visiting Drama Group
11 April	Northland Swimming Championship
13 April	Final day of term 1
30 April	First day of term 2

### Term dates 2018

Term 1	31 Jan to 13 April
Term 2	30 April to 6 July
Term 3	23 July to 28 September
Term 4	15 October to 14 December (to be confirmed)

### Daily Absences

Parents are reminded -

To advise the office by 9:00am if their child will be absent from school that day with the reason for their absence (the Ministry of Education requires us to code each absence).

By 9:30am each day an audit is undertaken of all attendance registers. Unaccounted absences are advised to the office, which then has the responsibility for investigating those absences. **This can be a time consuming process and so parents are asked to help by keeping us fully informed.**

Children who arrive at school after 9:00am bell are asked to report to the office on arrival please.

### School Contributions /Trips and Events Fee

1. The Board is grateful for payment of **school contributions** and is committed to using these in ways which add value to your children's learning - in this regard it is a little unique as a donation, as we want you to get something concrete in return. Your contributions help to lower teacher / pupil ratios, improve access to digital devices, increase teacher aide hours, expand our Learning Support programmes, subsidise buses & visiting drama groups & so forth. Contributions may be paid in one instalment at year's commencement or quarterly.
2. **The trips and events fee** is a more efficient and convenient alternative to the usual collection of smaller amounts throughout the year. This fee covers entry to visiting drama groups, around one return bus trip each term, and miscellaneous event / trip costs. We select events / trips carefully and negotiate the best deals we can on your behalf. Participation in these events is encouraged but not compulsory. Please advise the school office if you do not want your child to participate in these events, in which case payment of the trips / events fee is not required as no cost is incurred by the school for their nonparticipation where this is known in advance.

It is a reality that NZ schools are significantly underfunded by government, requiring schools to find their own sources of funding. While we are creative and diligent in seeking alternative sources of funding (with a determination to ask from parents no more than we need) your school contribution is a small but significant part of our funding. The board encourages payment of this contribution if you can, and promises to use every cent wisely and in ways that add value to learning.

If feeling financially stretched at the moment parents are welcome to contact Kevin to discuss alternative payment arrangements. You will find us accommodating and discreet. Kevin is also more than happy to discuss how the school determines its budget priorities and manages its spending with any interested person.

### Stationery

If your child does not have their stationery please organise this as soon as possible. You are welcome to source your stationery off site but take care to note the quality of items you purchase. All items can also be purchased now from the school office. Stationery can be purchased throughout the year from the office.

### Sunhats

A reminder that school bucket sunhats are compulsory in terms 1 and 4. Please ensure these are packed at the beginning of each school day. Clothing which covers the shoulders is also advisable with sun block at your discretion.

### Punctuality

In order to aid in the smooth operation of classes (and in order to teach an important life skill) we request that children are at school at least 10-15 minutes before the morning bell to give them time to settle, connect with their teacher, and prepare for the day ahead. If running unavoidably late please give the school office a call, we understand that sometimes things don't quite go to plan. Many thanks.

### **Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)**

The above are scheduled for 19 and 20 February - **online booking will open shortly (more to follow)**. Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. Conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard, and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

**Early Buses** - early notice that buses will run 30-40 minutes early on 19 and 20 February because of parent interviews. Parents who transport their children by car are asked to pick them up at 2.30 PM please on these days.

### **Learning Support Programme**

If your child is selected for placement in one of our learning support programmes please return consent forms as soon as possible. This is a valuable opportunity for a more personalized and intensive learning programme, in an area of need, and parental support with assigned homework tasks is expected.

### **Pool Keys**

The pool will be available for public use. Hire keys are available from the school office at \$40 per family, which includes a \$10 key bond which will be refunded upon return of the key. This fee is for the 2018 swimming season. If you have a key from last year it is important that you return this as soon as possible. Last year's keys will not work on the lock in 2018. No fence jumping please.

### **Bus Times**

Bus times and routes are as at the end of last year and are available on our website. Please assist us by monitoring the behaviour/safety of children waiting at bus pick up points and advising us early of any areas of concern.

Parents are also reminded that motor vehicles are required to reduce their speed to 20km per hour when passing a stationary bus.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT BUS DROP OFF TIMES ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON LOADINGS- PARTICULARLY WHEN THERE IS A MAJOR EVENT AT SCHOOL. ON SPORTS DAYS / CAMP WEEKS ETC. PARENTS SHOULD EXPECT TIMES TO VARY QUITE WIDELY.**

### **Pick up of Children**

1. Where possible parents are asked to pick their children up from the bottom bus bay or upper carpark (in the former case children are asked to wait by Room 13, heading down when they sight your car). This is a dangerous stretch of road and we request that all parents assist us to minimise risks.
2. If dropping children off in the upper car park please note the newly designated drop off zone. **Please do not park in the zone** and move on as quickly as you safely can.
3. If you have made arrangements for somebody else to pick your child up from school, the office must be advised beforehand. Any visitors to the school should report to the office first.
4. Parents of non-bus children are asked to pick their children up by 3:20PM (or later by arrangement with the School Office).

### **End of Day Buses**

If your child will not be on their customary bus at the end of the day please -

- ♦ Either 1. Advise the office before 2:45pm (in which case a note is put on the bus clip)
- ♦ Or 2. Drop by the office to let us know

This saves time searching for children and enables us to get buses underway on time.

If you wish your child to travel on an alternative bus (i.e. not their regular bus) the prior consent of the office must be obtained. Consent will depend on bus loadings.

### **Term Headlice Inspection**

We are keen to have a school wide headlice inspection as soon as possible to avoid the stress which accompanies any outbreak (possible date 15 Feb). We are keen for offers of help and so, if you are able to help with inspections, please phone Helen here at school. - Without offers of help we will not be able to continue this service.

### Request from our Librarian

Please check bookshelves, behind dressers, under beds etc. and return any books to school as soon as possible.

### Year 5 and 6 Camp

Please return medical forms to school by the end of next week. If returning police vetting forms to school please return these to the office and bring two forms of ID with you, it is a legal requirement that we sight ID. We are happy to make accommodations for time payment of camp fees ... just see Kevin. Any general questions in the run up to camp to Mr Schuster please. Thank you for your overwhelming offers of support to date.

### Swimming Trials

If able to assist with the timing of swimmers on **12 February** (years 4 to 8) or **20 February** please give Kevin a call. These trials help ensure correct selection of swimmers for zone & interschool events & assist us to place children in heats for our school swimming sports. We would love your help with this.

*Parents of year 3 children who would like their children to participate in the competitive races at our school swimming sports (as opposed to the usual junior water confidence activities) are asked to advise their child's teacher early next week - we will then include these children in the time trials.*

### Parent Helpers

We well know the difference that can be made through the involvement of parent helpers. If you can commit some regular time to a classroom (or some other area of the school) please make contact with your child's teacher or drop by to the office. If you do assist in classrooms you will be asked to read over some guidelines and suggestions prior to starting. **It is absolutely critical that parent helpers respect the privacy of children and their families by ensuring that any observations or impressions are not discussed outside of the school.**

Please give Kevin a call if you wish to further discuss your potential involvement.

### Medical Forms/Address/Contact Details

On enrolment parents provide important details on contacts / custody issues / medical conditions / medications etc. Please continue throughout the year to keep us informed so that we can properly discharge our duty of care to your child(ren).

### Medications

Medications should be held at, and administered from, the school office. **Where we currently hold medication for your child, please call by the office within the next 2 weeks to check expiry dates and arrange replacement where necessary.**

### Swimming

Children are required to have their swimming gear at school each day. Thank you.

### Creating optimal conditions for learning (just a reminder)

An increasing body of educational research is suggesting that some of the biggest improvements in learning (and sometimes health) can result from simple things like ..

- .. **drinking plenty of water.** Parents are asked to ensure children bring a water bottle to school each day. A reminder that water is preferable to sugar based drinks. We will encourage them to have their water bottle on their desks at all times during the day (a good idea when you consider the brain is 90% water).
- ... **a good nights sleep.** A target bedtime of 8:00 PM (or earlier) is suggested for all children.
- .. **a suitable breakfast and healthy lunch.** With food as close as possible to its natural form.
- .. don't forget to **show an interest** in what your child is doing at school. Share mealtimes with them if possible and don't let them overdo the homework - we all need time to play.

### Guitar Lessons

If interested in after school guitar lessons please phone Vangie on 021 188 3251, or email [killalea@outlook.com](mailto:killalea@outlook.com) during the month of February.

### Friday Lunches

.. start next week ... order form attached. Weekly orders must be in no later than Wednesday of the week in question. Please give Helen a call if you can spend 10 minutes in the morning and/or 15 minutes around mid-day to help with heating and distribution of items. Thank you.

### Monday Lunches

If able to help with Monday lunches (around 45 minutes) from 12:00 on Mondays please give Helen a call. Any assistance would be very much appreciated.

### Communications

Over the course of the year you may have questions or perhaps even concerns. It is impossible for us to please everyone all of the time, but we have a strong desire to be fair and will accommodate you where we can. Where an issue involves a dispute between children please remember that the school is required by law to apply "natural justice" principles to every investigation, this involves hearing all sides and gathering good information. **Try to avoid settling on conclusions in advance of a thorough investigation by the school as incidents always look different when placed in their wider context.**

In the first instance matters should be addressed to your child's teacher, but I am always available down the track, or for issues of a general nature. We find that trust, communication and a positive attitude, ensures problems seldom develop. We know we will make mistakes from time to time and so please be patient and understanding when this happens.

Come in early with any problems .. **although remember that a problem of monumental proportions in the mind of a child one week may have entirely disappeared from their radar screen the following week.** Equally, parental concerns can sometimes disappear (or change) with a second or third or fourth piece of relevant information.

### Homework

.. information to follow within next week or two.

### Questions

We hope the newsletter keeps you informed of major issues throughout the year. Nevertheless you will have questions from time to time. Please feel free to phone the office at any time or to approach staff. We are more than happy to answer any questions and so ask...ask...ask. Remember the newsletter can be accessed same day on our school website.

### School contribution / ipads etc ... Year 4 to 8 students only

As in 2017 the board is suggesting a discounted school contribution **in the event that parents are providing their children with their own (take home) digital devices.** The contribution and fees request from was sent home yesterday. The Board is trying to keep costs as low as possible and give you options. We realise that there are divergent views out there on the role of digital technology in learning, and we want to be respectful of this fact. Circumstances and world views differ. The call is entirely yours. You should feel under no pressure in any direction. Our goal is simply to grow our competency in using digital technologies to enhance learning, and to ensure that children can access these technologies when they are needed. We are also well aware of the need to limit time spent in front of devices and we are monitoring this as we move forward. We will set a date shortly to assist parents with setting up of devices, to review safety and security matters, and to talk about some of the amazing apps we are using to accelerate learning. So watch this space.

### Please find below an excerpt on devices from last year's final newsletter in case you missed this

*... we are inviting parents (for children years 4 to 8), to opt for laptops or chromebooks. In order to save you money longer term we suggest that, if your child is heading for KHS, you might like to consider chromebooks, if WGHS or WBHS then a device of your choice. To keep your costs as low as possible, whatever your choice, we will make it work at our end. If your child already has an ipad that you would like them to bring to school, you are more than welcome to do so. We are however now preferring laptops and chromebooks, as these fill our device needs better than an ipad.*

### Have your residential / contact details changed ?

... if so please let Helen know.

If you formerly resided out of zone, and are now residing in zone, we are particularly keen to hear from you. In zone children generate more funding ... which means more and better resources for students. So please let us know next week if your children were balloted into the school initially and have moved into our zone since then.

### After School Care

If you think you would use an After School Care programme next year, starting term 1, 3:00 – 5:30, school hall, Monday to Friday, homework support, afternoon tea, arts and crafts etc. Cost \$6 per child per hour,... please contact Kim 021 066 3806 to enrol, or for more information.

### Finally

Thanks for entrusting us with your children's education for another year. There is always plenty to get excited about. While the "3 Rs" remain a priority, including how we fine tune programmes for struggling writers, we will do further work, school wide, in the areas of multiple intelligence and personalised learning, with an additional emphasis on critical and higher order thinking. We will also begin to implement the new Digital Technologies curriculum. School wide te reo lessons will continue this year, along with an expanded year 7 and 8 options programme ... including Spanish, Japanese, lab science, computer coding, and, of course, the Cambridge lower secondary programme. More to follow over the next few weeks. Welcome on board. Great to be back.

Regards  
Kevin Trehwella  
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your  
children, please support them

**SUMPTER  
BAUGHEN**  
Chartered Accountants

## School Lunches



**Mondays** - \$3.00 : Baked Beans or Spaghetti served with toast & a juice, or Chicken or Beef Cup of Noodles & a juice.  
Order at the office by morning tea on Monday.

**Wednesdays** - START Week 3 - 14 Feb 18 - \$1.50 : for Sausage (meat or vegetarian option) in bread with sauce.  
Order on Wednesday mornings through the classroom teacher.

**Fridays** - \$4.00 - Hot Mince Pie, Sausage Roll (with Museli Bar) or a Butter Chicken Wrap and a Fruit Drink. You can swap the Fruit drink for a Flavoured Milk for \$5.00.

PLUS NEW - \$4.50 : - Ham or Chicken Salad Wrap or Salad Wrap or  
\$2.50 - Cup of Chilled Watermelon or Pineapple.

Order by Wednesday at the office, to receive Friday.

See order form attached to this week's newsletter if you want to bulk order for term 1.



# FRIDAY SCHOOL LUNCHES

HAVE A DAY OFF MAKING LUNCHES AND SUPPORT THE SCHOOL!

- ☺ Below is an order form for **Friday** lunches.
- ☺ These can be ordered for the term in advance, or weekly if desired.
- ☺ **Please have weekly orders placed at the school office by the Wednesday to receive an order the following Friday.**
- ☺ Please make cheques payable to Matarau School.

Thanks for supporting our fundraiser.

## TERM ORDER FORM – Term 1 2018

Child \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

___ Sausage Roll/Muesli Bar/Drink \$4.00	___ Mince Pie or Mince N Cheese/Drink \$4.00
___ Chicken or Ham or Plain Salad Wrap/Drink \$4.50	___ Butter Chicken Wrap/Drink \$4.00
___ Milk Drink - extra \$1.00	___ Cup of Chilled Watermelon or Pineapple \$2.50

Child \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

___ Sausage Roll/Muesli Bar/Drink \$4.00	___ Mince Pie or Mince N Cheese/Drink \$4.00
___ Chicken or Ham or Plain Salad Wrap/Drink \$4.50	___ Butter Chicken Wrap/Drink \$4.00
___ Milk Drink - extra \$1.00	___ Cup of Chilled Watermelon or Pineapple \$2.50

Child \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

___ Sausage Roll/Muesli Bar/Drink \$4.00	___ Mince Pie or Mince N Cheese/Drink \$4.00
___ Chicken or Ham or Plain Salad Wrap/Drink \$4.50	___ Butter Chicken Wrap/Drink \$4.00
___ Milk Drink - extra \$1.00	___ Cup of Chilled Watermelon or Pineapple \$2.50

Child \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

___ Sausage Roll/Muesli Bar/Drink \$4.00	___ Mince Pie or Mince N Cheese/Drink \$4.00
___ Chicken or Ham or Plain Salad Wrap/Drink \$4.50	___ Butter Chicken Wrap/Drink \$4.00
___ Milk Drink - extra \$1.00	___ Cup of Chilled Watermelon or Pineapple \$2.50

TERM ORDER - Total Amount Owing For Term 1 2018 - 9 available weeks

Items @ \$4.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ weeks =  
Items @ \$5.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ weeks =  
Items @ \$4.50 x \_\_\_\_\_ weeks =  
Items @ \$5.50 x \_\_\_\_\_ weeks =  
Items @ \$2.50 x \_\_\_\_\_ weeks =

In the case of a child's absence from school and instructions to the contrary, we are unable to guarantee a refund or provide a lunch on a subsequent week.

# PURUA SCHOOL ~ 125 year Reunion

7th April 2018

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If you attended Purua School or know someone who did  
please register to come along.

Phone 09 553 3275

Or visit our facebook page -

[www.facebook.com/goups/puruaschool/125](http://www.facebook.com/goups/puruaschool/125)

Don't be shy, great chance to catch up with old friends & teachers.